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REPORT



OF THE



BOARD OF HEALTH

OF THE

CITY OF READING,



FOR THE YEAR 1888

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FOR THE YEAR 1888.

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Board of Health of the City of Reading, Pa.

M. A. RHOADS, M. D., President.
MARTIN LUTHER, M. D.,
WM. F. MARKS, M. D.,
D. P. SCHLOTT,
THOMAS P. MERRITT,
A. B. DUNDOR, M. D.,
C. H. SCHAEFFER, Esq.



—†—

E. A. HOWELL, Secretary.
R. J. LAING, Health Commissioner.

—†—

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Accounts and Finance.—MESSRS. SCHLOTT, MERRITT, SCHAEFFER.
Adulterations and Poisons.—MESSRS. MARKS, DUNDOR, SCHLOTT.
Drainage Sewerage and Water Supply.—MESSRS. MERRITT,
SCHAEFFER, LUTHER.
Law and Ordinance.—MESSRS. SCHAEFFER, LUTHER, MARKS.
Nuisances.—MESSRS. DUNDOR, SCHLOTT, MERRITT.
Preventable Diseases and School Hygiene.—MESSRS. LUTHER,
MARKS, DUNDOR.
Registration and Vital Statistics.—MESSRS. RHOADS, LUTHER,
DUNDOR.

102597



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

To the President and Members of the Select and Common Councils of the City of Reading:

GENTLEMEN:—Herewith is presented the Sixteenth Annual Report of the Board of Health, together with the vital statistics for the fiscal period ending December 31, 1888.

By ordinance the sum of two thousand dollars was placed to the credit of this Department. Of this amount the sum of fourteen hundred and twenty-three dollars and seventeen cents has been expended, leaving an unexpended balance of five hundred and seventy-six dollars and eighty-three cents. Nine hundred dollars was paid out as salaries for the Health Commissioner and Secretary. The receipts of the office from various sources amounted in the aggregate to seven hundred and seventy-seven dollars and forty-five cents.

We are pleased to find that your honorable bodies have decided to increase the city's supply of water. For several years past this Board has called the attention of Councils to the necessity for such a step. An ample supply of pure and wholesome water is one of the best sanitary agents known, without which no community, no matter how favorably located, can hope to escape the horrors of sickness and suffering.

We have had occasion in previous reports to speak of the necessity for a system of sewerage, and recommended that a competent sanitary engineer be employed to prepare a plan for a general system of sewers based upon the probable future necessities of the city. Councils, by ordinance passed in June, 1888, authorized the Committee on Sewers to employ Carrol Phillips Bassett, C. E. E. M., of Newark, N. J., to prepare plans and general specifications of a comprehensive system of sewers. His report, already in your hands, deserves of you favorable consideration. The report covers the ground thoroughly, and, with slight modifications, should be adopted without delay. Every year the necessity for sewers becomes more urgent. A city covering, approximately, 3,850 acres, with a population of 57,750 people, comprised within an area of 2,400 acres, calls for relief from the old style methods of cesspool and sewerage disposal.

The following brief extracts from Mr. Bassett's report we commend to your careful consideration: "The method, almost universally in vogue, within the city for the disposing of household filth, especially human excrement, consists in pouring it into excavations in the ground preferably deep enough to reach to open crevices in the limestone, and walled up with loose stone work, open jointed. Twenty feet is the depth usually attempted for these vaults. Where the ground water stands nearer the surface, or difficulty is encountered in removing rock a less depth, greater than six feet is considered satisfactory."

"The etiological relations to diseases have recently been the subject of such careful study, and the knowledge acquired has so clearly outlined some of the causes and limits of 'preventable diseases,' that the tolerance of stored liquid filth in the midst of compact populations, furnishing nourishment for micro-organisms of disease, can hardly be counted other than an invitation to calamity and fostering homicide."

Public hygiene has become a science in which the State has a special interest. Twenty-five years ago the State paid very little attention to sanitary regulations. If a neighbor corrupted the air with a "noisome smell" a man had his remedy in an action at law, but efficient sanitary legislation there was none.

There are whole bodies of men and women suffering grievous physical evils which no existing legislation can alleviate or remove. There is, therefore, a work of wholesome agitation to be carried on, such as the influence of occupation on health, the duration of life among the higher and middle classes, the mortality of hospitals, the fluctuations of mortal maladies, the relation of insanity to crime, besides several other topics directly bearing on the science and art of hygiene. It is not our purpose to exaggerate, but when we bear in mind that drinking water may become the vehicle for the poison of typhoid fever, and that consumption is amenable to the influence of drainage; when we reflect that there is great room for improvement in the management of all infectious maladies; that most of the towns and villages surrounding us are still untouched by the hand of the sanitary engineer; that a great work of cleansing has yet to be done in our rivers and streams; when we bear all this in mind we cannot condemn as extravagant the estimate of those who think that one-fourth part of our actual mortality may be ultimately averted. Nor, if the question of ways and means must be entertained, can we overlook the fact that large sums of money are spent every year in the ever-recurring, never-ending work of palliation, which sums, if they were devoted to the work of prevention, would make our city the healthiest and happiest city in the State.

A number of private alleys, condemned by the Board, were graded and paved during the year.

Five suits for violation of the rules were instituted, in all of which judgment was obtained against the defendants.

Sixty-nine loads of garbage, each weighing about thirteen hundred pounds were removed during the year; and fourteen thousand, four hundred barrels of night soil, each barrel containing about three hundred pounds, during the same period. The latter by the licensed cleaners.

The number of complaints that reached this office was somewhat in excess of last year, as will be the seen by the following report.

REPORT OF THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER.

	1st Quar.	2d Quar.	3d Quar.	4th Quar.	Total.	
Alleys filthy and noisome.....		166	4	1	171	Cleaned by the Board.
Alleys defective drainage.....	1				1	Remedied.
Alleys graded and paved.....			4		4	By the Board and Owners.
Ashes and refuse matter on St.		1	1		2	Removed.
Bloody water on street.....	2				2	"
Bloody water in cellar.....		4		3	7	"
Butchers' offal on manure heap		2	1		3	"
Cow stables—filthy.....			1		1	Cleaned.
Cellars—water in.....	47	13	15	13	88	Removed.
Cellars—privy water in.....	3	5	3	6	17	"
Cellars—filthy.....	1	2			3	Cleaned.
Chicken coops—filthy.....		1			1	"
Culverts—filthy.....		1			1	"
Cellars—foul gas in.....		1			1	Remedied.
Defective drainage.....	11	1	14	5	31	"
Dead cats on street.....	7	6	4	4	21	Removed by Scavenger.
Dead chickens on street.....	1				1	Removed by Scavenger.
Dead dogs on the street.....	6	3	2	2	13	Removed by Scavenger.
Dead rats on street.....	3		1		4	Removed by Scavenger.
Dead fish on street.....		1			1	Removed by Scavenger.
Dead pig on street.. ..	1				1	Removed by Scavenger.
Defective house plumbing.....			1		1	Remedied by the Owner.



REPORT OF THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER.—*Continued.*

	1st Quar.	2d Quar.	3d Quar.	4th Quar.	Total.	
Garbage on street.....			4		4	Removed by the Board
Garbage on lot and yard.....			2		2	Removed by the Board.
Gutters—filthy.....		1	3	1	5	Cleaned by High. Dept.
Garbage in cellar.....	1				1	Removed by the Owner.
Garbage in alley.....		1			1	Removed by the Board.
Gutters—defective.....			1	1	2	Remedied.
Hydrants—leaky.....	6		2	3	11	Remedied by Water Dept.
Lots—filthy.....		12	1	1	14	Cleaned by the Board.
Manure heaps—filthy.....	1	1	4	1	9	Removed.
Oyster shells on street.....	3				3	"
Oyster shells in cellar.....			1		1	"
Oyster shells on lot.....		2			2	"
Privies—full.....	38	94	53	42	227	Cleaned.
Privies—leaky.....	2	5	5	6	18	Remedied.
Privies—foul.....		2	17		19	Disinfected by the Board.
Privies—shallow.....	2	30	24	5	70	Remedied.
Privies—Defective.....			1	1	2	"
Privies—exposed.....			2		2	"
Privies dug contrary to law....		2	2		4	Referred to the Board.
Privy water in yard.....	1	2	3	1	7	Removed.
Privy gases in house.....	1		1	3	5	Remedied.
Privy water on street.....	1				1	Removed.
Pig-pens—filthy.....		1	1		2	"
Refuse matter on 10-ft. alley...	1	1			2	Removed by Owner.
Rotten matter on street.....			2		2	Removed by Owner.
Streets—filthy.....				2	2	Cleaned by High. Dept.
Sink—foul and filthy.....		1			1	Remedied.
Stagnant water on street.....		1			1	Removed.
Stagnant water in cellar.....		1			1	"
Stopped up drain.....	1	5	1	1	8	Remedied.
Swill-barrels—filthy....		2			2	Removed.
Stopped up water-course.....				1	1	Remedied.
Urinals run into street.....		2	4		6	Removed.
Filth removed from 10-ft. alleys		383			383	Removed by the Board.
Dead cats removed from 10-ft. alleys.....		34	22		56	Removed by the Board.

REPORT OF THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER — *Concluded.*

	1st Quar.	2d Quar.	3d Quar.	4th Quar.	Total.	
Filthy bedding removed from house.....			1		1	Removed by Board.
Dead chickens on 10-ft. alley...		33	29		62	Removed by Board.
Dead rats on 10-ft. alley.....		105	32		137	Removed by Board.
Dead dogs on 10-ft. alley.....		6			6	Removed by Board.
Dead duck on 10-ft. alley.....		1			1	Removed by Board.
Loads of garbage removed from streets and alleys			67	2	69	Removed by Board.
Rotten hams removed.....			26		26	Removed by Board.
Dead pigeons on street.....			5		5	Removed by Board.
No cause for complaint.....	1			1	1	
	142	946	376	106	1570	

Quite a large number of alleys, both public and private, were reported to the Board during the year. Wherever necessary property owners were notified to clean them, and if they failed to do so, the Board proceeded to do the work.

The following alleys were graded and paved during the year :

Alley east and west, between Tenth and Mulberry and Greenwich and Oley streets.

Alley north and south, between Greenwich and Oley and Tenth and Mulberry streets.

Alley north of Walnut, between Eighth and Cedar streets.

Alley east from Cedar, between Elm and Walnut streets.

Alley north from Robeson, between Ninth and Moss streets.

Alley north and south, between Cotton and South and Twelfth and Wunder streets.

Alley east and west, between Wunder and Twelfth and Cotton and South streets.

Alley east and west, between Second and Apple and Cherry and Franklin streets.

Alley east and west, between Mulberry and Eleventh and Oley and Centre streets.

Alley east from Eleventh, between Green and Greenwich streets.

The following private alleys, not on the topographical survey, and not within the jurisdiction of the Highway Department, were cleaned by the Board :

Alley east from Eleventh, between Perkiomen avenue and Franklin street.

Alley north and south, between Perkiomen avenue and Franklin street.

Alley south from Perkiomen avenue to Wunder street.

Alley east and west, between Eleventh and Wunder and Weimer and Chestnut streets.

Alley east and west, between Wunder and Twelfth and Weimer and Chestnut streets.

Alley east and west, between Twelfth and Weimer and north of Chestnut street.

Alley south from Weimer, between Chestnut street and Perkiomen avenue.

Alley north and south, between Cedar and Ninth and Washington and Walnut streets.

Alley east from Cedar and north of Washington street.

Alley east from Cedar and south of Walnut street.

Alley north and south, between Walnut and Elm and Eighth and Cedar streets.

Alley west from Cedar, between Walnut and Elm streets.

Alley north and south, between Maple and Eleventh and Franklin and Chestnut streets.

Alley east and west, between Maple and Eleventh and Franklin and Chestnut streets.

Alley north and south, between Eleventh and Wunder and Weimer and Chestnut streets.

Alley east and west, between Eleventh and Wunder and Chestnut and Spruce streets.

Alley east and west, between Wunder and Twelfth and Chestnut and Twelfth streets.

Alley north and south, between Chestnut and Spruce and Wunder and Twelfth streets.

Alley east and west, between Wunder and Twelfth and north from Spruce street.

Alley east and west, between Eleventh and Wunder and Chestnut and Spruce streets.

Alley north and south, between Eleventh and Wunder and Chestnut and Spruce streets.

Alley north and south, between Elm and Buttonwood and Eighth and Cedar streets.

Alley west from Cedar, between Elm and Buttonwood streets.

Alley north and south, between Spruce and Muhlenberg and Eleventh and Wunder streets.

- Alley west from Wunder and south of Spruce street.
- Alley west from Wunder and north from Muhlenberg street.
- Alley east and west, between Tenth and Maple and Chestnut and Spruce streets.
- Alley east and west, between Maple and Eleventh and Chestnut and Spruce streets.
- Alley north and south, between Maple and Eleventh and Chestnut and Spruce streets.
- Alley north and south, between Tenth and Maple and Chestnut and Spruce streets.
- Alley north and south, between Maple and Eleventh and Spruce and Muhlenberg streets.
- Alley east from Maple, between Benner's court and Muhlenberg streets.
- Alley east from Maple, between Benner's court and Spruce street.
- Alley north from Spruce, between Ninth and Orange streets.
- Alley north and south, between Spruce and Muhlenberg and Ninth and Orange streets.
- Alley west from Orange, between Spruce and Muhlenberg streets.
- Alley north from Muhlenberg, between Tenth and Maple streets.
- Alley west from Maple, between Spruce and Muhlenberg streets.
- Alley east and west, between Orange and Tenth and Bingaman and Spruce streets.
- Alley north from Spruce, between Orange and Tenth streets.
- Alley east from Culvert, between Ninth and Orange streets.
- Alley west from Orange, between Culvert and Cotton streets.
- Alley east and west, between Orange and Tenth and Culvert and Cotton streets.
- Alley south from Culvert, between Tenth and Maple streets.
- Alley south from Muhlenberg, between Orange and Tenth streets.
- Alley running east from Orange, between Culvert and Cotton streets.
- Alley east and west, between Orange and Tenth and Cherry and Franklin streets.
- Alley south from Cherry, between Orange and Tenth streets.
- Alley north from Elm, between Sixth and Reed streets.
- Alley south from Elm and Reed and the railroad.
- Alley north from Buttonwood, between Church and Sixth streets.
- Alley east and west, between Church and Sixth and Buttonwood and Woodward streets.
- Alley east and west, between Fourth and Fifth and Buttonwood and Woodward streets.



Alley east and west, between Nicolls and Eighth and north of Oley street.

Alley west from Spring Garden and south from Bingaman street.

Alley east and west, between Spring Garden and Ninth and south from Bingaman street.

Alley north and south, between Bingaman and Muhlenberg and Spring Garden and Ninth streets.

Alley north from Muhlenberg, between Eighth and Spring Garden streets.

Alley east and west, between Church and Sixth and Elm and Buttonwood streets.

Alley north from alley, between Church and Sixth and Elm and Buttonwood streets.

Alley west from Church, between Elm and Buttonwood streets.

Alley north from Elm, between Fifth and Church streets.

Alley north from Windsor, between Church and Sixth streets.

Alley west from Fifth, between Cherry and Penn streets.

Alley north from Cherry, between Wood and Fifth streets.

Alley north and south, between Cotton and South and Maple and Eleventh streets.

Alley north and south, between Cotton and South and Eleventh and Twelfth streets.

Alley north and south, between Ninth and Tenth streets.

Alley north and south, between Culvert and Laurel and railroad and Ninth streets.

Alley south from Bingaman, between Seventh and railroad.

Alley east from Seventh, between Bingaman and Pine streets.

Alley north and south, between Seventh and Neversink streets.

Alley west from Neversink street, and north of Laurel street.

Alley east and west, between Lemon and Eighth and north of Bingaman street.

Alley south from Willow, between Minor and Seventh streets.

Alley east from Minor and south of Willow street.

Alley west from Minor and south of Willow street.

Alley south from Willow, between Sixth and Minor streets.

Alley north and south, between Laurel and Willow and Sixth and Minor streets.

Alley north and south, between Cotton and South and Tenth and Maple streets.

Alley west from Maple, between Cotton and South streets.

Alley east and west, between Maple and Eleventh and Cotton and South streets.

Alley east and west, between Eleventh and Wunder and Cotton and South streets.

Alley north and south, between Laurel and Willow and Minor and Seventh streets.

Alley east from Minor, between Laurel and Willow streets.

Alley north and south, between Pine and Laurel and Seventh and Minor streets.

Alley north and south, between Pine and Laurel and Sixth and Minor streets.

Alley west from Minor and south of Pine street.

Alley east from Minor and south of Pine street.

Alley west from Minor and north of Laurel streets.

Alley east from Minor, between Bingaman and Pine streets.

Alley north and south, between Laurel and Willow and Pearl and Sixth streets.

Alley east from Pearl and south from Laurel street.

Alley north and south, between Bingaman and Laurel and Pearl and Sixth streets.

Alley north and south, between Spruce and Bingaman and Sixth Plum streets.

Alley west from Plum and south from Spruce street.

Alley north and south, between Spruce and Bingaman and Plum and Seventh streets.

Alley east from Plum, between Spruce and Bingaman streets.

Alley north and south, between Pine and Bingaman and Fourth and Wood streets.

Alley west from Wood, between Pine and Bingaman streets.

Alley north and south, between Pine and Bingaman and Wood and Fifth streets.

Alley east from Wood, between Pine and Bingaman streets.

Alley north and south, between Spruce and Pine and Carpenter and Fourth streets.

Alley north and south, between Spruce and Bingaman and Carpenter and Fourth streets.

Alley east and west, between Mifflin and Second and Chestnut and Spruce streets.

Alley north and south, between Chestnut and Spruce and Second and Mifflin streets.

Alley north and south, between Hamilton and Washington and River and Front streets.

Alley north from Hamilton, between River and Front streets.

Alley north and south, between Schuylkill avenue and Jefferson and west from Front street.

Alley east and west, between Front and Schuylkill avenue and Jefferson and Hockley lane.

Alley north and south, between Cedar and Ninth and Walnut and Elm streets.

Alley east and west, between North River and Schuylkill avenue and Jefferson and Hockley streets.

Alley east from Cedar, north of Walnut street.

- Alley east from Cedar and south of Elm street.
- Alley north and south, between Elm and Buttonwood and Cedar and Ninth streets.
- Alley west from Cedar and North of Elm street.
- Alley north and south, between Ninth and Moss and Walnut and Elm streets.
- Alley west from Moss and north of Walnut street.
- Alley west from Moss and south of Elm street.
- Alley north and south, between Walnut and Elm and Moss and Ninth streets.
- Alley east from Moss and north of Walnut street.
- Alley east from Moss and south of Elm street.
- Alley north from Elm, between Ninth and Moss streets.
- Alley east from Moss and south of Buttonwood street.
- Alley east and west, between Moss and Tenth and north of Buttonwood street.
- Alley north and south, between Elm and Buttonwood and Moss and Tenth streets.
- Alley east and west, between Moss and Tenth and south of Buttonwood street.
- Alley north and south, between Moss and Tenth and south from Buttonwood street.
- Alley north from Windsor, between Eighth and Ninth streets.
- Alley south from Robeson, between Ninth and Moss streets.
- Alley south from Laurel, between Fourth and Fifth streets.
- Alley north and south, between Chestnut and Spruce and Pearl and Sixth streets.
- Alley north and south, between Elm and Buttonwood and Tenth and Mulberry streets.
- Alley north and south, between Buttonwood and Green and Mulberry and Tenth streets.
- Alley north from Green, between Tenth and Mulberry streets.
- Alley west from Mulberry, between Green and Greenwich streets.
- Alley west from Mulberry, between Elm and Buttonwood streets.
- Alley west from Mulberry, between Buttonwood and Green streets.
- Alley north and south, between Green and Greenwich and Eighth and Cedar streets.
- Alley west from Cedar and north of Green street.
- Alley east and west, between Moss and Tenth and Buttonwood and Green streets.
- Alley north and south, between Buttonwood and Green and Moss and Tenth streets.
- Alley east from Moss, between Buttonwood and Green streets.

- Alley north and south, between Green and Greenwich streets.
- Alley north and south, between Greenwich and Oley and Moss and Tenth streets.
- Alley east from Moss and north from Greenwich street.
- Alley east from Moss and south of Oley street.
- Alley north and south, between Oley and Centre and Moss and Tenth streets.
- Alley east from Moss and north of Oley street.
- Alley south from Green, between Ninth and Moss streets.
- Alley north and south, between Green and Greenwich and Ninth and Moss streets.
- Alley west from Moss and north of Green street.
- Alley west from Moss and south from Greenwich street.
- Alley north and south between Greenwich and Oley and Ninth and Moss streets.
- Alley west from Moss and south from Greenwich street.
- Alley west from Moss and south from Oley street.
- Alley north and south, between Oley and Centre and Ninth and Moss streets.
- Alley west from Moss and north of Oley street.
- Alley west from Moss and south of Centre street.
- Alley east and west, between Locust and Twelfth and south of Elm street.
- Alley north and south, between Walnut and Elm and Locust and Twelfth streets.
- Alley east and west, between Locust and Twelfth and Walnut and Elm streets.
- Alley east and west, between Mulberry and Tenth and Greenwich and Oley streets.
- Alley south from Oley, between Mulberry and Eleventh streets.
- Alley east from Mulberry and south of Oley street.
- Alley south from Robeson, between Ninth and Moss streets.
- Alley east from Thirteenth, between Muhlenberg and Cotton streets.
- Alley east and west, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth and Cotton and South streets.
- Alley north and south, between Greenwich and Oley and Moss and Tenth streets.

The following vacant lots, enumerated below, containing garbage and refuse matter, were also cleaned by the Board :

- Lot west side of Twelfth street and north of Chestnut street.
- Lot northeast corner Wunder and Spruce streets.
- Lot west side of Sixth street, between Windsor and Spring streets.
- Lot east side of Church, between Windsor and Spring streets.

Lot west side of Tenth, between Cotton and South streets.
 Lot west side of Maple, between Cotton and South streets.
 Lot northwest corner of Sixth and Laurel streets.
 Lot southwest corner Robeson and Moss streets.
 Lot north of P. S. V. Railroad freight dépôt on South Fifth street.

Lot southwest corner Tenth and Oley streets.
 Lot on west side of Moss, between Spring and Centre streets.
 Lot east side of Tenth, between Oley and Centre streets.
 Lot east side of Sixth street, above Willow.
 Defective drainage on 4-foot alley, between front and Second and north of Cherry street, was remedied by the owners.

Filthy matter on a 10-foot alley running south from Hamilton street, between River and Front streets, was cleaned by the owners.

Refuse matter on a 3-foot alley, east from Pearl street, between Cherry and Franklin streets, was removed by the owner.

Refuse matter on Penn street, between Ninth and Tenth, was removed by the Highway Department.

Filthy matter on Cherry street, between Eighth and Ninth streets, was removed by the owner.

Filthy matter on Buttonwood street, between Second and Third streets, was removed by the Highway Department.

Filthy matter on Cotton street, above Fourteenth street, was removed by the owner.

Filthy matter on Chestnut street, above Tenth street, was removed by the owner.

Filthy matter on Twelve-and-a-Half street, south of Muhlenberg street, was removed by the Highway Department.

Filthy matter on Sixteenth street, between Perkiomen avenue and Cotton street, was removed by the Highway Department.

The Market Commissioner addressed the following communication to this Department:

Reading, Pa., January 1, 1889.

To the President and Members of the Board of Health:

GENTLEMEN:—In submitting part of my annual report, from June 16, 1888, to date, it affords me pleasure to say that, with all the diligence on my part, I had no occasion to make any seizures of meat, fish or vegetables exposed for sale in our markets. By order of the Committee on Markets I collected one hundred and ninety-two samples of milk from dealers selling milk in this city, and, with the assistance of the Chairman of the Committee on Adulterations and Poisons of your Board, analyzed the same, with the result herewith transmitted. I found a few lumps of

butter short in weight and disposed of them in the proper manner. I collected during the year for sealing weights and measures the sum of \$213.10.



Respectfully submitted,

JOHN MURRAY,
Market Commissioner.

Accompanying the table of the milk analyzed are the following comments by the Chairman of the Committee on Adulterations and Poisons of this Board: Pure unskimmed milk exhibits a specific gravity varying from 10.26 to 10.35, taking water at 1,000. It is lowered by a large quantity of cream and after that is removed may rise again several degrees. The average specific gravity is usually placed at 10.30 at a temperature of sixty degrees Fahrenheit, and the range above and below it is about four degrees. At the same temperature there is a loss of about three degrees for every ten per cent. of water added. Hence skimmed milk, if otherwise unadulterated, will give a high specific gravity and a low percentage of cream. In the list below there are but four cases given where the dealers represented their milk as being "skimmed," although a number of others were selling their milk as *pure*, which was evidently just as closely skimmed. As skimmed milk must of necessity be nearer the point of souring than that which is fresh, its sale should be absolutely prohibited unless sold as such. Taking the number of samples examined, we find that the average per centage of cream represented was nine per cent. Although this average approximates very closely to the normal standard, yet upon referring to the list of samples examined, a remarkable divergence from the accepted standard is observable, the lowest being two per cent. and the highest forty-five per cent. In the last case the sample was evidently taken from the cream can, and the same might, perhaps with equal propriety, be said of several other cases of high per centages. The list further shows that of the samples furnished, twenty-two gave an average of 18.4 per cent., forty-three gave an average of 11 per cent., and one hundred and twenty-one an average of but 6.6 per cent.

DEALERS.	Quality.	Per cent. of Cream.	DEALERS.	Quality.	Per cent. of Cream.
Ammon H.....	Pure.	8½	Fritz E. W.....	Pure.	24
Althouse E.....	Pure.	15	Fritz E. L.....	Pure.	7
Althouse M. J.	Pure.	8	Faust H.....	Pure.	15
Adams A. H.....	Pure.	9	Gring C. H.....	Pure.	8
Adams C.....	Pure.	9	Gruber William....	Pure.	7½
Althouse T.....	S. G. 1025.	45	Ganster L.....	Pure.	4
Bortz William.....	Pure.	11	Griffith L. B.....	Pure.	16
Bortz D. U.....	Pure.	7	Goodman H. L.....	Pure.	2
Babb D.....	Pure.	7	Gerhart M. F.....	Pure.	5
Bodner S.....	Pure.	6	Gaul D. T.....	Pure.	8½
Berg C.....	Pure.	6	Griesemer J. R.....	Pure.	10
Becker C.....	S. G. 1024.	37	Geiger J. P.....	Pure.	6
Bernet S. K.....	Pure.	9½	Geiger N.....	Pure.	8
Boyer I. R.....	Pure.	8	Griesemer J. Z.....	Pure.	12
Becker Jacob.....	Pure.	9	Grant J.....	Pure.	12
Becker J. S.....	S. G. 1024.	4½	Gehret S.....	Pure.	5
Bitting J.....	Pure.	6	Gottschall Mrs.....	Pure.	10
Braun F. W.....	Pure.	3½	Hepler J. C.....	Pure.	7
Babst J.....	Pure.	11	Hoffmaster Geo....	Pure.	10
Beehtel R. D.....	Pure.	6	Houck S. G.....	Pure.	12
Brady U.....	Pure.	2	Hoffmaster D.....	Pure.	19
Beaver —.....	Pure.	7	Hassler Joseph.....	Pure.	5
Bitting J. H.....	Pure.	7	Happle I. B.....	S. G. 1035.	20
Becker D.....	Pure.	6½	Happle F. L.....	Pure.	12
Bickel I.....	Pure.	12	Hatt L.....	Pure.	8½
Boyer G.....	S. G. 1024.	1½	Hill H. K.....	Pure.	5
Brumbach A. H....	Pure.	2	Holtznagle J.....	Pure.	4
Bechtold Peter.....	Skim.	1	Hertzog J.....	Pure.	9
Coller J. O.....	Pure.	25	Hornberger W. D....	Pure.	17
Donough Zach.....	Pure.	10	Hugett J.....	Pure.	8
Doyle Michael.....	Pure.	2	Hemmig F. H.....	Pure.	9½
Deturk I. D.....	Pure.	6	Hechler Wm. A....	Pure.	10
Dunkelberger D....	Pure.	14	Haas D.....	Pure.	6
Davis R. F.....	Pure.	11	Hoff's Farm.....	Pure.	8
Dietrich C. C.....	Pure.	10	Krick Wm.....	Pure.	5
Douglass H. C.....	Skim.	2	Kauffman D. K.....	Pure.	5
Dunkelberger J....	S. G. 1025.	21	Kieser C.....	Pure.	10
Eyrich A. G.....	Pure.	6	Kintz B. F.....	Pure.	16
Eitzel Wm. W.....	Pure.	8	Krieg F.....	Pure.	5
Ebbert Jere.....	Pure.	5½	Kline Aaron.....	Pure.	8
Eisenbice Mrs.....	Pure.	7½	Kretz Louis.....	Pure.	4
Esterly F. M. F....	Pure.	6½	Kochel S.....	Pure.	5
Esterly H. C.....	Pure.	6½	Kohl Allen.....	Pure.	11
Fritz John.....	Pure.	13	Kemmerer D.....	Pure.	8
Freeman Samuel....	Pure.	8	Koch J. J.....	Pure.	9
Freese W.....	Pure.	8	Leininger J. K.....	Pure.	11
Fulton Mr.....	Pure.	8	Leininger M. T.....	Pure.	6
Fritz H. G.....	Pure.	8	Lash J.....	S. G. 1034.	26
Fritz H. F.....	Pure.	20	Leininger A. G.....	Pure.	5½
Fritz L. G.....	Pure.	20	Landis S.....	Skim.	4
Fisher C. C.....	Pure.	9	Lewis W. W.....	Pure.	10

DEALERS.	Quality.	Per cent. of Cream.	DEALERS.	Quality.	Per cent. of Cream.
Lewis T. W.....	S. G. 1026.	23	Strasser T.....	S. G. 1021.	7
Loeb Jacob.....	S. G. 1024.	8	Swavely Jacob.....	Pure.	12
Levan Cyrus.....	Pure.	8½	Smith M.....	Pure.	10
Ludwig H. R.....	Pure.	9½	Schlegel E.	Pure.	12
Lauer Mrs.....	Pure.	7	Stricker H.....	Pure.	9
Madeira N.....	Pure.	8	Spatz M. S.....	Pure.	7
Merkel Wm.....	Pure.	12½	Spatz J.....	Pure.	6
Mathias P.....	Pure.	10	Strunk J. T.	Pure.	9
Miller D.....	Pure.	9	Schnable W.....	Pure.	8
Moyer H.....	Pure.	6	Schwartz J. H.....	Pure.	7
Moyer X.....	Pure.	8	Stark J.....	Pure.	3½
Mounz J. G.....	Pure.	10	Saul E. G.....	Pure.	5
Mays W. H.....	Pure.	9	Stauffer J. B.....	Pure.	10½
Marsh Henry.....	Pure.	9	Shurr P.....	Pure.	13
Matz J. W.....	Pure.	7½	Sweitzer S.....	Pure.	8
Moyer C. H.....	Pure.	15	Spohn Chas.....	Pure.	11
Madeira A.....	Pure.	10	Strunk J. Y.....	Pure.	2
Matz Wm. H.....	Pure.	5½	Suender C. G.....	Pure.	10
Nein Wm. R.....	Pure.	7½	Scheidy W.....	Pure.	6½
Noll L. F.....	Pure.	6½	Stricker A.....	Pure.	7½
Neiman Lewis.....	Pure.	9	Shirk H.....	Pure.	11
Nolan James.....	Pure.	4	Sheneman L.....	Pure.	5
Odear Wm.....	Pure.	10	Shirk C. P.....	Pure.	15
Plank Samuel.....	Pure.	5	Spatz D.....	Pure.	9
Pushoric F.....	Pure.	9	Trupp Isaac.....	Pure.	8½
Potteiger C.....	Pure.	16	Tyson's Farm.....	Pure.	15
Potteiger H. L.....	Pure.	15	Troxell J. E.....	Pure.	7
Plugfelder D.....	Pure.	5	Wanner M. A.....	Pure.	11
Pennepacker A. M.	Pure.	8	Wamsher R.....	Pure.	8
Petsch H.....	Pure.	10	Wolf Mrs.....	Pure.	6
Rhoads H. Y.....	Pure.	4	Wanner F. R.....	Pure.	9
Rex F.....	Pure.	3	Williams S. M.....	Pure.	10
Ruth M.....	Pure.	8	Weiler D.....	Pure.	7
Raudenbush R.....	Pure.	12	Wanner J.....	Pure.	8
Reininger J.....	Pure.	9	Westley J. K.....	Pure.	12
Rock G.....	Pure.	9	Wenterhalter F.....	Pure.	10
Reichenader G.....	Pure.	11	Wells John.....	Pure.	11
Reising N.....	Pure.	18	Winters Lyman.....	Pure.	11
Rauch Lavina.....	Pure.	11	Yost R. R.....	Pure.	6
Reber J.....	Pure.	8	Yocom G. Y.....	Pure.	8
Romig M. B.....	Pure.	6	Zellers L.....	Pure.	5
Reinhart D.....	Pure.	7½	Zerr E. M.....	Pure.	12
Rebholtz G.....	Pure.	8	Zink F.....	Pure.	17
Rebholtz M.....	Skim.	2	Zell Benjamin.....	Pure.	12
Shaeffer Isaac.....	Pure.	4			

The City Scavenger reports that during the year 1888 he has removed dead animals as follows:

Horses, 114.	Dogs, 183.	Cats, 160.	Rats, 54.
Chickens, 74.	Cows, 7.	Pigs, 37.	Rabbits, 12.
Mules, 7.	Pigeons, 6.	Calves, 5.	Goats, 2.
Ducks, 1.	Sheep, 3.	Fish, 5.	Turkeys, 3.
Ox head, 1.			

Licenses were granted to two parties to remove night soil, each paying for the privilege the sum of twenty-five dollars.

Statement A shows the amount and disposition of the appropriation :

Appropriation	\$2,000 00
Cash paid for grading, paving and cleaning private alleys.....	\$ 167 15
Cash paid for abating nuisances.....	36 80
Cash paid for cleaning cesspools.....	58 25
Cash paid for printing and publishing.....	106 67
Cash paid for stationery.....	38 30
Cash paid for postage stamps and cards.....	20 00
Cash paid for preparing statistical tables.....	25 00
Cash paid for livery hire, refreshments and miscellaneous.....	71 00
Cash paid for salary, Health Commissioner and uniform allowance.....	600 00
Cash paid for salary, Secretary.....	300 00
	1,423 17

Balance merging into city treasury Dec. 31, 1888.....\$ 576 83.

Statement B exhibits the revenue of the Department from the issue of permits, licenses, etc.

Burial permits.....	\$267 50
Cesspool permits.....	365 00
Licenses for cleaning cesspools.....	50 00
Cleaning cesspools.....	84 90
Abating nuisances.....	10 05
	\$777 45

Statement C shows the appropriation, expenditure and revenue of the Department for the year 1888.

<i>Appropriation.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>	<i>Revenue.</i>
\$2,000 00	\$1,423 17	\$777 45

The Board respectfully asks for an appropriation for the ensuing year as follows :

Salaries, Health Commissioner and Secretary.....	\$ 900 00
Abating nuisances	1,000 00
Miscellaneous.....	600 00
	\$2,500 00

MARRIAGES—622.

Six hundred and twenty-two marriages were solemnized during the year 1888, an increase of forty-three as compared with last year.

Two hundred and sixty-nine of the ceremonies were performed by the Lutheran clergy; one hundred and seventy-eight by the Reformed; seventy-four by the Catholic; nine by the Baptist; eight by the U. B. in Christ; thirty-two by the Evangelical; ten by the Methodist; thirteen by the Episcopal; three by the Presbyterian; three by the R. E. Friendship; one by the Church of God; one by the Friends; two by the Hebrew; and nineteen by the Aldermen of the city.

Forty-one of the marriages took place in January; thirty-four in February; fifty in March; forty-nine in April; fifty-four in May; fifty-six in June; thirty-six in July; forty-seven in August; sixty-nine in September; fifty-three in October; seventy in November; and sixty-three in December.

The ages of the contracting parties were:

Under 20— 33 men and 168 women.
 20 to 25—308 men and 318 women.
 25 to 30—175 men and 83 women.
 30 to 40— 67 men and 37 women.
 40 to 50— 21 men and 10 women.
 50 to 60— 14 men and 5 women.
 60 to 70— 3 men.

Age not given— 1 man and 1 woman.

Nationality of Grooms and Brides.

	Quarter Ending March 31, 1888.		Quarter Ending June 30, 1888.		Quarter Ending Sept. 30, 1888.		Quarter Ending Dec. 31, 1888.		Total.	
	Grooms.	Brides.	Grooms.	Brides.	Grooms.	Brides.	Grooms.	Brides.	Grooms.	Brides.
City.....	38	39	51	67	36	45	46	70	171	221
County	51	62	53	63	65	64	72	71	241	260
State.....	15	14	30	15	26	26	41	34	112	89
United States.....	4	2	5	3	7	4	9	2	24	11
Foreign.....	17	8	19	11	16	13	16	7	69	39
Not given.....			1		2		2	2	5	2
Total.....	125	125	159	150	152	152	186	186	622	622

Table Showing the Ceremonies used in the Solemnization of Marriages.

1888.	Lutheran.	Reformed.	Catholic.	Baptist.	U. B. in Christ.	Evangelical.	Methodist.	Episcopal.	Presbyterian.	K. E. Friendship.	Church of God.	Friends.	Hebrew.	Aldermen.	Total.
January	17	15	6					1						2	41
February	13	7	7	1	2	2							1	1	34
March	29	13		1		5	1		1						50
April	12	13	11	2	2	4		1	1					3	49
May	19	22	8			4	1								54
June	22	17	9	1	2	2		2			1				56
July	22	6	3			1	1			1				2	36
August	21	10	2			4	2	2		1				5	47
September	32	22	6	1	2	2	2	1		1					69
October	2	13	6			4	1	2					1	1	53
November	35	19	11	1		1	1	1				1			70
December	22	21	5	2		3	1	3	1					5	63
Total	269	178	74	9	8	32	10	13	3	3	1	1	2	19	622

Table Showing the Ages of the Parties at the Time of Marriage.

	AGES OF BRIDES.							
	Under 20 years.	20 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	Total Men.
Under 20 years	22	11						33
20 to 25 years	117	174	14	3				308
25 to 30 years	24	107	37	7				175
30 to 40 years	4	22	29	10	2			67
40 to 50 years	1	3	3	12	2			21
50 to 60 years				5	5	4		14
60 to 70 years		1			1	1		3
Not given							1	1
Total Women	168	318	83	37	10	5		1,622

BIRTHS—1,628.

Sixteen hundred and twenty-eight births were reported during the year, an increase of seventy-one over the year 1887. Nine hundred were males and seven hundred and twenty-eight were females. Twelve were colored—four males and eight females. Twins of the same sexes were born in the Second Ward (1), Sixth Ward (2), Seventh Ward (1), Ninth Ward (2), Tenth Ward (1) and Thirteenth Ward (2). Those of opposite sexes, Second Ward, Seventh Ward and Thirteenth Ward. The months in which twins were born were January (2), February (1), April (3), May (2), June (2), August (1) and September (1).

During the month of January there were one hundred and sixty-five births; February, one hundred and forty-one; March, one hundred and fifty; April, one hundred and eight; May, one hundred and twenty-four; June, one hundred and twenty-one; July, one hundred and twelve; August, one hundred and fifty-five; September, one hundred and twenty-nine; October, one hundred and fifty-six; November, one hundred and thirty-four, and December, one hundred and thirty-two.

One hundred and eight births occurred in the First Ward, two hundred and five in the Second Ward, one hundred and fifteen in the Third Ward, forty-seven in the Fourth Ward, seventy-five in the Fifth Ward, one hundred and ninety-one in the Sixth Ward, one hundred and six in the Seventh Ward, one hundred and eight in the Eighth Ward, one hundred and twenty-eight in the Ninth Ward, one hundred and eighty-four in the Tenth Ward, one hundred and twenty-eight in the Eleventh Ward, one hundred and twenty-three in the Twelfth Ward and one hundred and three in the Thirteenth Ward. In fourteen the number of the ward was not mentioned.

The excess of births over deaths in the city was six hundred and seventy.

The birth rate was 26.10 in 1,000 for the year 1888, and the death rate 14.2.

Table Showing the Premature and Still-births in each Month by Sexes and Colors.

	January.		February.		March.		April.		May.		June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.		December.		Total.		Grand Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
Still-born	6	3	6	2	4	2	3	2	9		3		1	5	1	2	2	2	1	5	2	1	1	1	39	25	64
Premature births.....	2	4					1	3	1	3	4	2	2	1	2	4	4	4	3	2	2		5	4	34	29	63
	8	7	14	2	4	4	4	5	10	3	7	2	3	6	3	6	6	6	4	7	4	1	6	5	73	54	127

Table Showing the Number of Male and Female Births in each Ward, and the Number of Twin Births, Etc.



WARDS	Births			Deaths.	Excess of Births.		Twins.	
	Male.	Female.	Total.		Male.	Female.	Same Sex.	Opposite Sex.
First Ward.....	55	53	108	55	53			
Second Ward.....	119	86	205	107	98		1	1
Third Ward.....	61	54	115	74	41			
Fourth Ward.....	30	17	47	47				
Fifth Ward.....	37	38	75	53	22			
Sixth Ward.....	117	74	191	109	82		2	
Seventh Ward.....	54	52	106	75	31		1	1
Eighth Ward.....	53	55	108	77	31			
Ninth Ward.....	76	52	128	98	30			
Tenth Ward.....	109	75	184	78	106		1	
Eleventh Ward.....	70	58	128	59	69			
Twelfth Ward.....	57	66	123	46	77			
Thirteenth Ward.....	57	46	103	73	30		2	1
Ward not given.....	5	2	7					
	900	728	1628	951	870		5	4

Table Showing the Number and Color of Male and Female Births in each Month.



1888.	WHITE.		BLACK.		Total, 1888.	1888.	Twins during 1888.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.			
January.....	105	58	1	1		165	2
February.....	77	63	1			141	1
March.....	80	70				150	
Total, First Quarter.....					456		
April.....	47	60	1			108	3
May.....	71	52	1			124	2
June.....	70	50	1			121	2
Total, Second Quarter.....					354		
July.....	61	50		1		112	
August.....	79	74	1	1		155	1
September.....	71	57		1		129	1
Total, Third Quarter.....					396		
October.....	81	73	1			156	
November.....	83	50		1		134	
December.....	77	54		1		132	
Total, Fourth Quarter.....					422		
	902	711	7	6	1628		12

Of one birth in June and one in October is mentioned.

Estimated population of Reading January 1, 1889, 57,750.

DEATHS—823.

Permits were issued by the Department for the burial of ten hundred and seventy-eight bodies during the year 1888. Of this number one hundred and twenty-seven were brought here from other places, seventy-one were still-born and fifty-seven were premature births, leaving a net total for the city of eight hundred and twenty-three deaths.

Two hundred and eighty-eight were married, four hundred and forty single and ninety-five were widowed.

Four hundred and six were males, four hundred and eight were females, and ten the sex was not mentioned. Of the sixty-four still-born children, thirty-nine were males and twenty-five were females. Of the premature births, thirty-four were reported as males and twenty-nine as females.

Of the decedents seven hundred and twenty-seven were born in the United States, eighty-seven were of foreign birth and of ten the nativity was unknown.

Two hundred and eighty-eight died under the age of one year, thirty-six prior to the second year, forty-five before reaching the fifth year, twenty-two between five and ten, one hundred and five between ten and thirty, one hundred and eighty-seven between thirty and sixty, one hundred and fifty-one between sixty and eighty, thirty-nine between eighty and ninety and one between ninety and one hundred.

Two hundred belong to the class zymotic, one hundred and thirteen to the constitutional, three hundred and eight-three to the local, seventy-two to the developmental and fifty-five were the result of violence.

Adding together the number of deaths under ten years, we have three hundred and forty-one, or 41.42 per cent. of all deaths.

The average number of deaths per month was 68.58, a decrease of 14.92 as compared with the year 1887. The least number of deaths in any one month was sixty-six in October; the greatest number, one hundred and nine, in August.

The average number of deaths per week was 15.82. The greatest number reported during any one week was for the week ending July 30th, when there were thirty-seven deaths; the least number for the week ending October 22d and November 5, with ten each.

One hundred and twenty-eight permits were issued for the burial of still-born and premature births. These are omitted from the general summary as not properly belonging to the death rate. Prior to the year 1887 abortions, premature births and still-born children were counted into the mortality record, and made our death rate appear greater than it really was.

The estimated population for 1888 is 57,750; the annual ratio of deaths per 1,000 inhabitants is 14.02.

The following statement, in tabular form, shows the population and death rate for a period of five years, still-born and premature births *not included in the years 1887 and 1888*.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Total No. of Deaths.	Death Rate.
1884.....	49,000.....	917.....	18.7
1885.....	50,500.....	1,025.....	20.2
1886.....	52,250.....	8.61.....	16.4
1887.....	55,500.....	1,002.....	18.02
1888.....	57,750.....	823.....	14.2

Table Showing Sex, Age, Color, Nativity, Residence, Cause and Number of Deaths, &c., for the Quarter ending March 31st, 1888.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Jan		Feb		Mar		Age.										Col. Nat'y		Residence, Wards.										Brought from a Distance.																		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Under 1 yr.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	White.	Black.	U. States.	Foreign.	Unknown.	First.	Second.	Third.		Fourth.	Fifth.	Sixth.	Seventh.	Eighth.	Ninth.	Tenth.	Eleventh.	Twelfth.	Thirteenth.								
Apoplexy.....	1	1	3	3	2	3							4	1		3	2	4	4		13	10	2	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				
Accident, R. R.....	1		1																		5																							1			
Abortion, accid'l.....							1														1																								1		
Anaemia, pernicious.....	1		1													1					1																								1		
Bright's disease.....	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1							2	1		2	1		4	5	5	3	1		1																	1			
Brain, congest'n of.....	1	1	1	1			1														3	3	3	1																				1			
Brain, inflamma'n of.....	1						1														1																									1	
Brain, inflama'n of.....	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1					1								3	3	3	1																				1			
Brain, concuss'n of.....	1																				1																								1		
Burn.....													1								2																									1	
Bowels, tumor of.....																					1																									1	
Bowels, inflama'n of.....	1																				1																								1		
Bowels, obstr'n of.....																					1																									1	
Bronchitis, capillary.....	1																				2																										1
Consumption.....	5	3	5	2	10	5		1				1	8	6	5	6	2	2	2		29	124	6	2																						7	
Cancer of stomach.....	1																				2																										1
Cancer of rectum.....																					1																										1
Cancer of uterus.....	1																				1																										1
Cancer of breast.....																					1																										1
Croup.....	2	1	2	5	1		2	2	4	3											11	11	11	1																						2	
Cyanosis.....																					2																										1
Convulsions.....	1	2	7	3	1	1	15														15	15	1																								2
Cystitis.....																					1																										1

[illegible]

Table Showing Sex, Age, Color, Nativity, Residence, Cause and Number of Deaths, &c., for the Quarter ending June 30th, 1888.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Apr May June		Age.										Col. Nat'y		Residence, Wards.										Brought from a Distance.														
	Males.	Females.	Under 1 yr.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	White.	Black.	U. States.	Foreign.	Unknown.	First.	Second.	Third.		Fourth.	Fifth.	Sixth.	Seventh.	Eighth.	Ninth.	Tenth.	Eleventh.	Twelfth.	Thirteenth.				
Accident, railroad	5	6	1			1	1	1	1	6	2	1					12	9	2	1	2	1				2	1										1	4	
Alcoholism	1											1					1	1																			1	2	
Apoplexy	1	5	1	3						2	2	4	2	1			11	8	3	1	1																1	1	
Anasarca		1				1											1	1	1																		1	1	
Asthma		1								1							1	1	1																		1	1	
Accident, fall		1								1							1	1	1																		1	1	
Abscess, perin'p'ic																	1	1	1																		1	1	
Bright's disease	2	2	1							1							2	4	3		1																1	1	
Brain, inflam. of		1															2	4	4	3	1																1	1	
Brain, congest. of	1																2	2	1																		1	1	
Bowels, inflam. of		3	1	2													1	1	1																		1	1	
Bronchitis, catarrh		1	1														1	1	1																		1	1	
Bronchitis, chron		1															1	1	1																		1	1	
Convulsions	5	3	4	4	12	3											16	17																			1	1	
Consumption	1	4	5	6	10					6	10	5	4	3	1	1	30	29	1																		1	1	
Croup	3	2	8			1	4	3									8	8																			1	1	
Cancer, mesenteric		1															1	1	1																		1	1	
Cancer of the liver		1															1	1	1																		1	1	
Cancer of the uter		2															2	2																			1	1	
Cancer of axil. gla		1															1	1	1																		1	1	
Cholera infantum		1															1	1	1																		1	1	
Cyanosis		1	1	2													2	2																				1	1

Table Showing Sex, Age, Color, Nativity, Residence, Cause and Number of Deaths, &c., for the Quarter ending June 30th, 1888.—Continued.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Apr		May		June		Age.										Col. Nat'y		Residence, Wards.										Brought from a Distance.								
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Under 1 yr.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	White.	Black.	U. States.	Foreign.	Unknown.	First.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	Fifth.		Sixth.	Seventh.	Eighth.	Ninth.	Tenth.	Eleventh.	Twelfth.	Thirteenth.
Cramps of stom'ch	1																		1	1																1	
Confinement.....	1																		1	1																1	
Complication dis..																			2	2																2	1
Diphtheria.....	2	1																	6	6																1	1
Dropsy.....	1																		2	2																1	1
Debility.....	1																		2	2																1	1
Debility, general.																			3	3																1	1
Debility of nerves																			2	2																1	1
Drowned, accident	1																		2	2																1	1
Erysipelas.....	1																		3	3																1	1
Enteritis.....																			1	1																1	1
Fever, scarlet.....	1																		1	1																1	1
Fever, remittent..																			1	1																1	1
Fracture of elbow	1																		1	1																1	1
Fistula of urachus																			1	1																1	1
Gastritis.....																			1	1																1	1
Gastro-enteritis...																			1	1																1	1
Heart disease.....	2	4	1	2	1														15	12	8															1	8
Hernia, strang'd																			2	2																1	1
Heart dis. con'tal.																			1	1																1	1
Hemiplegia.....																			1	1																1	1
Jaundice.....																			1	1																1	1

Table Showing Sex, Age, Color, Nativity, Residence, Cause and Number of Deaths for the Quarter ending September 30th, 1888.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	J'y Aug Sep.		Age.										Col. Nat'y		Residence, Wards.												Brought from a Distance.								
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Under 1 yr.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	White.	Black.	Unknown.	First.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	Fifth.		Sixth.	Seventh.	Eighth.	Ninth.	Tenth.	Eleventh.	Twelfth.	Thirteenth.
Alcoholism	1												1	3	1	1			1	1	1														1
Apoplexy	2	1																	4	1	2	3													
Accident, drown'd	1																		2	1	1	1													
Accident, railroad			3	1															4	3	1	1													
Aneurism of aorta																			1	1	1														
Brain, congest. of	3	1	1	1	3														5	5	5	1													
Brain, softening of																			1	1	1														
Brain, concus'n of	1																		1	1	1														
Brain, hemorrh. on			1	1															2	2	2														
Brain, inflam. of... ..			1	1	1														2	2	2														
Bronchitis capily	1																		1	1	1														
Bright's disease, ...																			2	2	2														
Bowels, inflam. of	2		1	1	2	1													7	7	5	2													
Burn, ...			1	1															2	1	1	1													
Cholera morbus, ...																			1	1	1	1													
Congestive chill, ...																			1	1	1	1													
Consumption, ...	2	7	3	6	1	3	1												22	20	2	2													
Convulsions, ...	4	3	3	1	3	16													17	17	3	1													
Convulsions, puer'			1	2															3	3	3														
Cyanosis, ...	1																		4	4	4	1													
Cholera infantum, ...	13	7	10	15	3	3	48												48	47	1	2													
Cancer, ...			1	2															3	3	3														

[illegible]

Table Showing Sex, Age, Color, Nativity, Residence, Cause and Number of Deaths, &c., for the Quarter ending December 31st, 1888.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Oct.		Nov		Dec		Age.										Col.		Residence, Wards.													Brought from a Distance.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																															
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Under 1 yr.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	White.	Black.	U. States.	Foreign.	Unknown.	First.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	Fifth.	Sixth.		Seventh.	Eighth.	Ninth.	Tenth.	Eleventh.	Twelfth.	Thirteenth.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
Apoplexy.....	2	1	2	2	1		1								1	3	1	2	1		8	1				1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					</

Table Showing Sex, Age, Color, Nativity, Residence, Cause and Number of Deaths, &c., for the
Quarter ending December 30th, 1888.—Continued.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Oct.		Nov.		Dec.		Age.										Col. Nat'y				Residence, Wards.										Brought from a Distance.						
	Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.		Males.		Females.		Males.			Females.		Males.		Females.	
	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	White.	Black.	U. States.	Foreign.	Unknown.	First.	Second.	Third.	Fourth.	Fifth.	Sixth.	Seventh.	Eighth.	Ninth.	Tenth.	Eleventh.	Twelfth.		Thirteenth.					
Diarrhoea, chronic	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Diphtheria	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Dropsy.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
Debility, general.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Endocarditis.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Enteritis.	2	2	3	1	2	6	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	10	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Epilepsy	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Fracture of ribs.	2	3	2	3	3	3	1	3	3	3	1	2	3	13	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Fever, typhoid.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Fever, remittent.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Gastritis	2	2	5	4	4	2	1	1	2	2	4	3	2	19	16	3	2	3	2	3	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Heart disease.	2	2	5	4	4	2	1	1	2	2	4	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Hysterotomy.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Hydrocephalus.	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Hemorr. on brain.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Insanity	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Lungs, congest. of.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Liver, cirrhosis of.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Marasmus.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Meningitis tuberc'	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Nephritis, chronic	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Necro., tib. and fib.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		

DEATHS IN THE DIFFERENT WARDS.

First Ward.....	45	Eighth Ward.....	66
Second Ward.....	98	Ninth Ward.....	90
Third Ward.....	60	Tenth Ward.....	69
Fourth Ward.....	36	Eleventh Ward.....	58
Fifth Ward	49	Twelfth Ward.....	31
Sixth Ward.....	92	Thirteenth Ward.....	69
Seventh Ward.....	64		

The 71 still-born and 57 premature births are not included in the above list.

Of those brought here for burial there where from:

Philadelphia, Pa.....	30	Unknown.....	2
Berks County Almshouse...	16	Danville, Pa.....	1
Pottstown, Pa.....	6	Phoenixville, Pa	1
Harrisburg, Pa.....	5	Holmsburg, Pa.....	1
Cumru Township.....	5	Lockport, N. Y.....	1
Lebanon, Pa.....	4	New York City.....	1
Wilkesbarre, Pa.....	3	Sunbury, Pa.....	1
Alsace Township.....	3	Akron, Pa.....	1
Chester, Pa.....	2	Altoona, Pa.....	1
Indianapolis, Ill.....	2	Tremont, Pa.....	1
Omaha, Neb.....	2	Ocean Grove, N. J.....	1
Brooklyn, N. Y.....	2	Saxton.....	1
Tamaqua, Pa.....	2	West Point, Neb.....	1
Exeter Station.....	2	Logan, Pa.....	1
Muhlenberg Township.....	2	Pottsville, Pa	1
Leesport, Pa.....	2	Hoboden, N. J.....	1
Spring Township	2	Punxentawny, Pa.....	1
Fayetteville	1	Mt. Penn Furnace, Pa.....	1
West Reading	1	Georgetown, Pa.....	1
Schaeffers'town, Pa.....	1	Auburn, Pa.....	1
Strausstown, Pa.....	1	Mohrsville, Pa.....	1
Easton, Pa.....	1	White House, Pa.....	1
Douglassville, Pa.....	1	Bristol, Pa.....	1
Schuylkill Haven.....	1	Dalton, Ga.....	1
Columbia, Pa.....	1	Pricetown Road.....	1
Royersford, Pa.....	1	Danbury, Conn.....	1

Interments were made in the different cemeteries as follows:

Charles Evans	433	Hebrew.....	4
Aulenbach.....	158	Almshouse.....	12
Catholic.....	163	Within the County.....	118
German Lutheran	48	Within the State.....	62
Lutheran.....	22	Within the United States..	4
Alsace.	54		

The nationality of the decedents was as follows :

United States.....	961	Poland.....	1
Germany.....	71	France.....	1
Ireland.....	17	Italy.....	1
Unknown.....	11	Denmark.....	1
England.....	6	Austria.....	1
Europe.....	5	Prussia.....	1
Scotland.....	1		

Fifteen died in St. Joseph's Hospital, twelve in the Reading Hospital and one in the Widows' Home.

CLASS.		1888.				
		1st Quarter.	2d Quarter.	3d Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.
	City,	41	26	82	51	200
Zymotic.....	Brought from a distance,	5	3	8	2	
	City,	36	30	24	23	113
Constitutional...	Brought from a distance,	8	6	5	2	
	City,	111	108	86	78	383
Local.....	Brought from a distance,	18	21	9	10	
	City,	21	17	14	20	72
Developmental..	Brought from a distance,	4	4	5		
	City,	13	20	12	10	55
Violence.....	Brought from a distance,	1	6	4	3	
	City,					
Miscellaneous....	Brought from a distance,			3		
	City,	222	201	218	182	823
Total.....	Brought from a distance,	36	40	34	17	

Monthly Mortality in the City from 1879 to 1888, inclusive.

[illegible]

For the years 1887 and 1888 the premature births and still-born are excluded from the monthly mortality table. Prior to that time they were included in the monthly totals.

Table Showing the Ages of Decedents for 1888.

	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 to 100.	Not given	
Deaths.....	248	38	47	27	14	35	81	87	59	84	89	88	48	5	1	951
Brought from Distance.....	10	2	2	5	2	7	16	14	17	12	12	14	9	4	1	127
	238	36	45	22	12	28	65	73	42	72	77	74	39	1		823

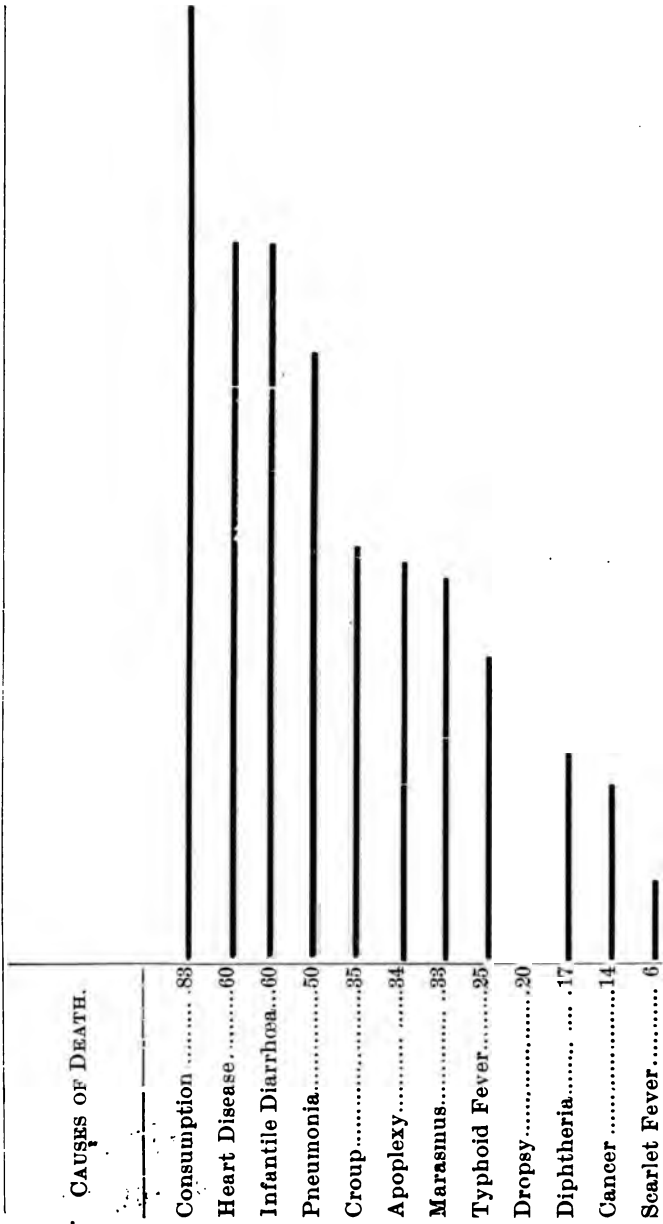
A Recapitulation of the Marriages, Births and Deaths for each Month will be found in the following table.

RECAPITULATION.

MONTHS.	Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.	Total Registration.
January.....	41	165	89	295
February.....	35	141	108	284
March.....	50	150	98	298
April.....	48	108	71	227
May.....	54	124	100	278
June.....	57	121	94	272
July.....	36	112	102	250
August.....	47	155	106	308
September.....	69	129	81	279
October.....	53	156	71	280
November.....	69	134	81	284
December.....	63	132	77	272
	622	1628	1078	3328



Diagram Showing the Comparative Mortality by Absolute Number of Decedents from 12 Prominent Causes of Death During 1888 in Reading, Pa.



A RECAPITULATION OF SOME OF THE MOST PROMINENT DISEASES.

Pulmonary Consumption.

Consumption again heads the list. Eighty-three persons died from this disease in 1888. The disease was most prevalent during the months of March, June and August. The total deaths for the first quarter were twenty-three; second quarter, twenty-four; third quarter, twenty-one; last quarter, seventeen. Thirty were males and fifty-three females. Three died before reaching their fifteenth year; thirty-two between fifteen and thirty; twenty-nine between thirty and fifty; fifteen between fifty and seventy, and four between seventy and ninety.

Pneumonia.

Twenty-seven males and twenty three females died from pneumonia. Of this number twenty-nine were adults and twenty-one minors.

Infantile Diarrhœa.

Under the above heading are included all cases under two years of age whose deaths have been certified as having occurred from "summer complaint," "cholera infantum," "diarrhœa," "dysentery," "entero-colitis," &c. Sixty deaths are attributed to the diseases mentioned.

Croup.

Membranous croup carried off thirty-five children. This does not include cases reported as diphtheritic croup.

Diphtheria.

The mortality from diphtheria was not near so great as last year. Seventeen only died from the disease against forty-one in 1887.

Six died from scarlet fever.

Twenty-five died from typhoid fever.

Thirty-four died from apoplexy.

Sixty died from "heart disease."

Thirty-three died from marasmus.

Fourteen died from the various forms of cancer.

Eighteen were killed on railroad.

Two were killed by falling.

One died from a fractured elbow.

One died from a fractured skull.

Five were suffocated.

Three were suffocated by gas.



Two were scalded to death.
 One died from a burn.
 One died from accidentally swallowing caustic soda.
 One was choked to death by a piece of meat.
 Five committed suicide.
 Three committed suicide by hanging.
 One committed suicide on railroad.

A General Summary.

		Percentage of Total Mortality.
Zymotic diseases.....	200.....	24.3
Constitutional diseases.....	113.....	13.7
Local diseases.....	383.....	46.5
Developmental diseases.....	72.....	8.7
Death from violence.....	55.....	6.6

Comparing the percentage of total mortality with that of the year 1887, we find that there has been quite a decrease in zymotic diseases, and also a slight decrease in constitutional diseases. The deaths from violence are largely in excess, the deaths from suicide alone claiming nine victims.

Health is the greatest of all blessings, the main-spring of bodily strength and mental efficiency, and the prime source of comfort and enjoyment; while disease in proportion to its degree and duration is synonymous with suffering more or less severe, and failure more or less complete. To the rich who need not work, and to the poor who must work, health is equally the source of comfort and enjoyment; but to the man who must labor, that he may live, health is this and something more—it is the means by which he earns his living. Disease, and especially such a lingering malady as a fever or a consumption, dries up the sources of his subsistence, exhausts his savings, plunges him into debt and threatens him and his with destitution. If he recovers his health, he may have lost his occupation and must spend his convalescence in a wearisome, perhaps a fruitless, search after work. If disease attacks his family but spares himself, it is still the greatest calamity that can befall him and them. The minor household virtues have no worse foe, education no deadlier enemy, intemperance no more sure ally, than sickness when it invades the humble dwellings of the poor.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

M. A. RHOADS, M. D.,

Reading, Pa., January 28, 1888.

President.

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